What is claimed is:

1.   A method, comprising:

receiving a request from at least one client for a title not resident in a storage server, said title
5   comprising a play track, said play track comprising a plurality of chapters;

initiating the retrieval from a secondary storage device of play track portions proximate chapter delineation points;

10   determining bandwidth capacity and quality-of-service (QoS) parameters associated with said secondary storage device; and

in the case of a client request to begin presentation of said title at one of said chapters, initiating the
15   streaming to said client of retrieved portions of said play track chapter, masking latency associated with said secondary storage device, and initiating retrieval of at least unretrieved portions of said play track chapter and subsequent play track portions from said secondary storage
20   device.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said title further comprises at least one trick play track corresponding to said play track, said method further comprising:
25   initiating the retrieval from said secondary storage device of play track portions supportive of trick play operation; and

in the case of a client request to enter a trick play mode, initiating the streaming to said client of retrieved
30   portions of a trick play track beginning at a trick play entry point, and initiating the retrieval from said secondary storage device of at least unretrieved portions of said trick play track.

35   3.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining whether said storage module has sufficient storage space to store said requested title; and

in the case of insufficient space existing in said storage server, deleting at least a portion of at least one
5 title presently stored in said storage server.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said at least one deleted title portion is associated with an infrequently used title.
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5. The method of claim 4, wherein said infrequently used title has not been bookmarked by a client.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
15 determining whether promotional assets exist for a new title;

adapting the available space within said storage server to receive any existing promotional assets associated with said new title; and
20 in the case of a high usage new title, transferring at least a portion of the assets associated with said high usage title to said storage server on a space availability basis.

25 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
inserting, into a request queue, a request for those assets associated with said high usage title that have not been retrieved, said request queue operating to retrieve queued items on a space availability basis.
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8. The method of claim 1, wherein said masking latency associated with said secondary storage device comprises providing pre-loaded content from the storage server.

35 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said masking latency

associated with said secondary storage device comprises
providing content portions from the storage server.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein said masking latency
5 associated with said secondary storage device comprises
providing random access content at appropriate entry points
within said title from the storage server.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said masking latency
10 associated with said secondary storage device comprises
providing promotional content from the storage server.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein said promotional
content is associated with said requested title.
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14. The method of claim 1, wherein said secondary storage
device comprises a second storage server.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein each storage server is
20 used to store the entirety of at least a portion of the
available titles to provide a secondary storage
functionality.

16. The method of claim 1, where said requested title,
25 when retrieved from secondary storage, is stored on disk in
one of said modules.

17. The method of claim 16, where storing said title on
disk is preceded by deleting at least portions of titles
30 previously stored on said disks.

18. The method of claim 1, where user title requests
waiting for service at one of said modules are migrated to
another of said modules.
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19. The method of claim 18, where said migration is based on the loads of said first and second modules.

20. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
5   migrating data residing on the disks of one of said modules to another of said modules.